

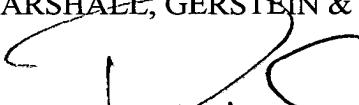
REMARKS

The present application is a continuation application of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/850,430, which has been allowed. The claims in this Preliminary Amendment (claims 34-44) were originally set forth during the prosecution of this parent application (*see*, claims 39-49). These claims are directed toward different embodiments than those covered by the allowed claims in the parent case. The Applicants' representative discussed these claims with the Examiner in the hopes of having them allowed in the parent case. As a result of that discussion, the present claims were cancelled, without prejudice, so that they may be pursued via continuation.

The claims are in condition for allowance and an expedited indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

By: 
Paul B. Stephens (Reg. No. 47,970)
Attorneys for Applicant
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300

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